SPARK GAP

Vol. 41, Issue 2-3, February/March 2024 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

Special M.A.R.C. 40th Anniversary Edition

On Our MARC:

Please join us Saturday at 8 am for our monthly Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meeting. This meeting, Art, WB9CHR will be discussing and demonstrating CW and Morse Code. I look forward to seeing you all there.

The MARC AuxComm group is serving our community on April 8th by providing emergency communication for Johnson County Emergency Management the day of the Total Solar Eclipse. This is very important to our community that we serve, and to the Sheriff's and Fire Departments. Thanks to all of those who have volunteered. We have personnel assigned to each of the four Division Commands, the Sheriff's EOC, and our MARC EOC, as well as people at home to help if needed.

See you at the meeting Saturday.

73,
Tim
WC9G

FEBRUARY & MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays for the month of February:

ND9C --- Steve Curtis
N9SIU --- Bob LaGrange
K9THR --- Ron Schuetz
K9DY --- Steve Carmean
KD9YON --- Tim Piscitelli
W9OQ --- Chris Read
KD9EDP --- Mike Smith

Birthdays for the month of March:

KC9WLR --- Mike Rose
KB9LOT --- Dave Daily
N9LC --- Steve Brown
W9NMM --- Noel Mortier
KD9TIO --- Gary Emmons
K9FRO --- Jeffrey Erdman

RAG CHEWER
DXCC
TB OM, I REALLY MUST SIGN NOW— MY DINNER WAS READY 15 MINUTES AGO, AND IF I DON'T COME AND GET IT, MY GORGEOUS, VERY PATIENT XYL IS GOING TO FEED IT TO THE DOG!
KG9BJH
—TB O.M., I REALLY MUST SIGN NOW—

MARC 40 YEARS AND GROWING

No celebration is complete without a full breakfast buffet, coffee, juice and lots of hungry hams. Our February 17th meeting was short on business and long on 40-years of friends, memorabilia and classic amateur radio equipment and displays.

*Club Presidents and 3 original club members (L-R) Keith-K9PDI, **Darrell**-KM9S and Tom-W9CSX.*

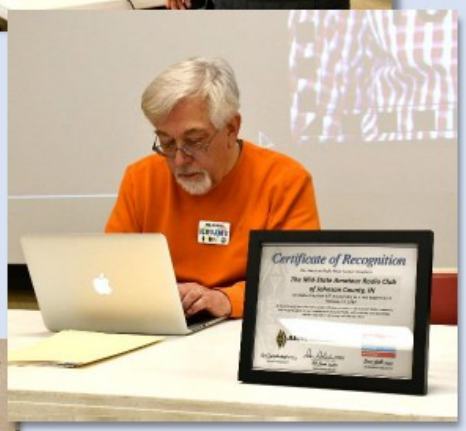
Club historian, Jack-W8ISH, covered several tables with historic pictures and historic proclamations showing the club's growth over 4 decades and the MARC commitment to public service in Johnson and surrounding counties.

ARRL Indiana Section Manager Bob Burns-AK9R and Assistant Manager Brent Walls-N9BA presented club president Tim Aldridge-WC9G with a 40th Anniversary Proclamation from the ARRL organization.

Tim-WC9G Brent-N9BA

In addition to radio equipment and video presentations we kicked off our 40th Anniversary Special Event Station with modern equipment and plenty of contacts. Kyle Burns-AD9CR and Jeremey Jukes-NQ8M provided on site radios and antennas for morning and afternoon HF stations. Our SES continued throughout

the following week as other club operators put their home stations to work logging side-band and digital contacts. At last count we logged over 500 contacts world-wide. Addressing and returning those QSL cards with a special 40th Anniversary event-design is still to come.



MID-STATE ARC FACTOIDS March 10, 2024

Club was formed and began meeting at House of Franklin in 1984.
Moved to Johnson County EOC in 1987.

REPEATER HISTORY

Started on barn near Rocklane. Moved to utility barn in Tom Carrol's, N9AZD, backyard in Whiteland. It later moved to top of Whiteland water tower. Elevation 130-feet. Before water tower was imploded the repeater moved across the Street Department property to a newly refurbished 200-foot tower Joe-KA9ZPA acquired. In late 1990's repeater was moved to WTTV tower in Trafalgar. After a couple of years it moved to Johnson county Sheriffs 400 tower in Franklin. When Motorola hung the 800 Mhz equipment we were forced to move to Sheriff's department short tower. In 2011 the repeater moved to current White River Fire Station #51 tower.

Repeater trustees include Tom Carroll, Larry Kemp, Charlie Sears, Steve Benson, Dave Julian, Matt Payne, Jay Chrisman, Chris Frederick and Darrell Sego. We can proudly report no Pick Slips in 40 years.

CLUB OFFICERS

18 Presidents, 12 Vice Presidents, 15 Secretaries and 11 Treasurers, 8 Newsletter editors and three Webmasters.

VE TEAM

Our ARRL VE team lead by Dave Wendt had the highest total of ARRL VE sessions in the state. In 2016 we switched to the Laurel VE system. Jacki KI6QOG is VE coordinator.

During the last year of ARRL exams before Laurel we processed 68 candidates including 40 new Techs, 23 General upgrades and 5 Extras.
We have sponsored dozens of new amateur radio classes over the past 40 years.
Estimate several hundred licensed hams or upgraded hams since starting our VE team in 1986.

Public Service

Skywarn weather spotters.
Communications for marathons in Johnson, Shelby, Morgan, Hamilton and Marion counties. Like radio waves our people have not stopped at the county line when it comes to public service and disasters. Many have assisted neighboring counties with Emergency Communications following tornado outbreaks, marathons and parades.

The Flooding disaster in June 2008 had 18 hams assisting emergency operations reporting closed roads and flooded bridges. All county police and fire agencies were flooded with calls for help. The Franklin PD had to cease operations around noon that day and evacuated the building is waist deep water. Our new EOC Radio Room is now

in the former armory of the old flooded Franklin PD.

OTHER CLUB ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 1984....
Many members participated in the 1987 Pan American Games.
In 1992 two club members, Jack Parker and Eric Sluder, sailed in Columbus' wake from Spain to the Canary Islands as part of America 500 making HF contacts. In February 2012 Bruce Tisdale and Rhonda Curtis assisted with Super Bowl communications.

Keeping tabs on this was our club Historian Paul Hise, AA9GY/ now SK.

In 2005 the club finally got Non-Profit status from IRS. That lead to us receiving a Grant from the Johnson County Foundation. That grant allowed us to upgrade the repeater with new hardline, antenna and controller at the new Station 51 location.

Over a dozen club members have been trained in the CERT, Citizens Emergency Response Team. Many more have been certified in the National Incident Management System.

Thanks to Brian Murray KB9BGV, Andrew Murray N9AWN and Rusty Kirts N9LLP and Jack Parker -W8ISH we have helped many Johnson County boy scouts earn their Communications Merit Badge. Brian has also taught many of us how to build electronic Kits.

Supper Eaters Group ran for 13 years. Joe Rogers KF9LQ lead the way to some of the best affordable restaurants each Thursday night. Jacki Frederick-KI6QOG restarted the tradition later. .Katie Palmer-K9KTP resurrected the Wednesday night group in 2022.

Our Club has had three members nominated for the prestigious Indiana Outstanding Amateur of the Year award. Two of those came away with the top honor. Jack-W8ISH was named Outstanding Amateur in 2000 and Steve Carmean K9DY was named Indiana Outstanding Amateur in 2008. Rhonda-W9SH was honored as well.

Bottom Line-

The life blood of the club is only as good as the people who step forward to participate. We have a room full of people who in one way or another have done that and made the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club one of the most enduring and successful clubs in the state of Indiana.

In 1987 the EOC Radio was in main hall leading to county Dispatch. Following 911 security got tighter and we moved to the back room in the basement of the Sheriff's Admin building. Sam Williams, Civil Defense Director, bought us a Kenwood HF rig and 2-meter radio. By early 2000, thanks to Federal/State Grant we received a HF radio, a 2-meter, dual band, and 220 MHz radio. Complete with two power supplies. We also got a new Dell laptop computer for digital communications for in house and in the field.

With the arrival of Johnson Counties new Emergency Mobile Communications Van we

established a dual band station on board. Thanks to county EMA director, Tug Sutton, Amateur Radio has become an integral part of emergency communications. In the van, we have our own workspace, complete with dual band radio and laptop computer with necessary Amateur Radio applications. Our antenna is on top of the 48 foot mast which helps with simplex operations. Our club often serves as tour guides when the Van is on display at county festivals.

By 2018 the club UHF repeater became active from Station 51 near SR135 and Smith Valley Road. Wires-X mode was added in 2021.
In late 2023 club president Tim Aldridge-WC9G receive a grant for over $10,000 in radio equipment. Two Yaesu dual band radios, a Yaesu multimode FT991a radio, HP laptop, dual band base antenna, 150 watt repeater amp, new 2-meter duplexers and a new high gain base antenna. Basically, all radio equipment in the Radio Room was replaced with state-of-the-art equipment.

Factoids by w8ish

Solar Eclipse One Month Away

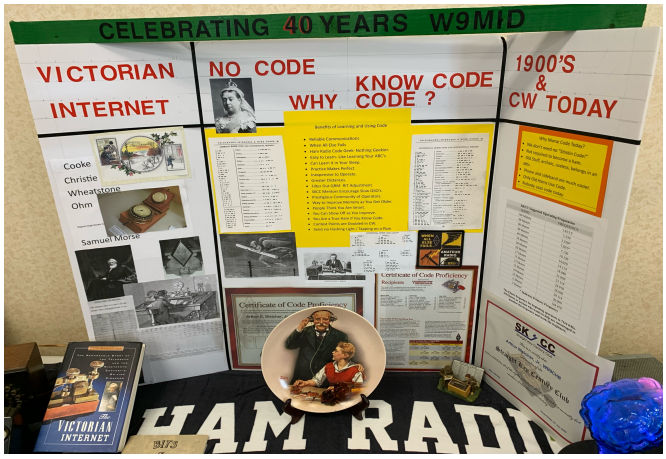
A total solar eclipse that will be seen across North America will occur on Monday, April 8th. It will be the last of its kind in the US for the next 20 years.
Hams across North America are asked to participate in a study about how the ionosphere functions by getting on the air to help scientists in a series of ionospheric experiments.
Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) has presentations for hams interested in participating on Wednesday, March 27 at 8;00 PM (Eastern) - 5:00 PM (Pacific)*, and that same day at 10:00 PM (Eastern) - 7:00 PM (Pacific)*. Both 30-minute presentations will held on Zoom and they will feature HamSCI's Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science (FoEIS). The presenters will take your questions during the presentations.
Here is the link to the presentations.
The program will start by covering HamSCI's basis and purpose, and quickly move into why they are conducting experiments, how hams and shortwave listeners (SWLS) can participate, and what they hope to learn from the event. Along the way, they will discuss why the science behind the event is important to users of the high-frequency radio spectrum - including amateur radio operators!

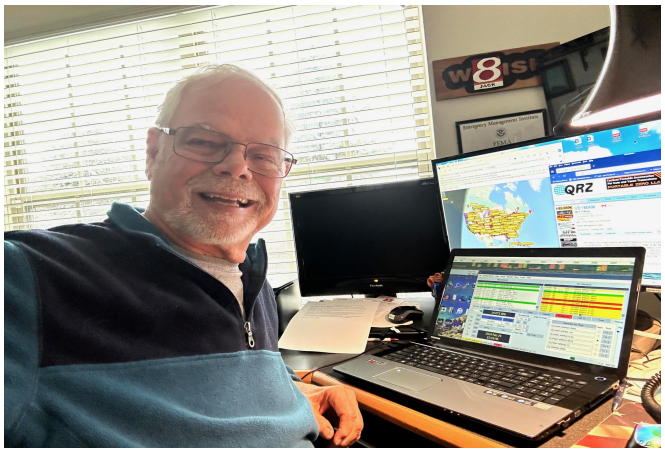
…..... ARRL News ----- March 2024

M.A.R.C. ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

February 19, 2024

Certificate of Recognition
The American Radio Relay League recognizes
The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club of Johnson County, IN
on celebrating their 40th Anniversary as a club beginning on February 19, 1984
In recognition of your achievement of this milestone in service to the Amateur Radio community, and, in appreciation of your commitment to Amateur Radio, and to sharing your knowledge, expertise and time to encourage and educate others.
ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO
Public Service
Advocacy
Education
Technology
Membership
Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA
Central Division Director
Bob Baker AK9R
Indiana Section Manager
Brent Walls N9BA
Central Division Vice Director





More Photos on the MARC Website, www.midstatehams.org

Bob Heil, K9EID, Silent Key

03/01/2024

The man who defined the sound of live rock ‘n’ roll music and brought audio engineering principals into mainstream amateur radio use, Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, has passed away at the age of 83. He was an ARRL Life Member and in the ARRL Maxim Society. A Facebook post from Heil Ham Radio paid tribute to their founder: “Bob fought a valiant, yearlong battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family.”

Heil founded Heil Sound in 1966, through which he created the template for modern concert sound systems for musicians like the Grateful Dead, The Who, Joe Walsh, and Peter Frampton. The talk box used on iconic live record *Frampton Comes Alive!* was of Heil’s design. His audio engineering products have been featured in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and he was honored in 2007 with the Parnelli Audio Innovator Award for his impact on the live sound industry. “My life has been about achieving great sound, whether on the concert stage or in the amateur radio world,” Bob Heil recounted in 2022. “I’ve watched Heil Sound go from a regional sound company to a world-class microphone manufacturer. This company has been my passion,” he said.

Parallel to his commercial and artistic success in live music, was his passion for amateur radio. He was active in ham radio from a young age and merged his expertise in audio engineering with his love for radio. Heil Ham Radio was founded to produce microphones, headsets, and other gear for radio amateurs with an emphasis on high-quality audio.

Heil was known as a mentor who enjoyed helping others find success in ham radio. Recently, his grandson Charlie Hartley, KF0OOP, became a licensed ham to surprise Heil for his birthday. The pair attended the ARRL Midwest Convention/Winterfest in St. Louis, Missouri, on January 27, 2024.

Heil was a generous donor to amateur radio organizations, including ARRL. Recently, he donated a host of new audio gear to the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW.

His generosity and kind nature will be missed by many, including ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. “Bob was a titan in many areas. He was generous with his time, offered keen insights, and had the heart of a philanthropist in the ARRL Maxim Society,” Beal said. “He was a gentleman to his core, making friends easily and everywhere he went, from rock stars to captains of industry. I consider it a real privilege to have become a friend to him, too, all because of amateur radio.”

Heil was known for his passion for AM operations. He served for many years as an on-camera host of the Ham Nation podcast. Tributes to Heil have been flooding social media, including from his co-hosts.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said Heil’s passing is a significant loss. "Bob Heil's technical achievements that brought high-quality audio to amateur radio pale in comparison to his generosity and willingness to help his fellow ham. He's long been known as someone eager to help mentor and teach. His legacy on our hobby will be long-lasting. Our thoughts are with his loved ones."

..... ARRL News March 2024

INDIANA HAMFESTS 2024

WVARA Spring 2024 Hamfest
Start Date: 03/30/2024
End Date: 03/30/2024
Location: Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds
6550 North State Road 59
Brazil, IN 47834
Website: https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest_2024.pdf
Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA, Inc.
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.685 MHz, 151.4 Hz
Public Contact: Kevin Berlen , K9HX
308 W. 4th St. Clay City, IN 47841
Phone: 812-239-9140
Email: kevin.berlen@gmail.com

Auburn Hamfest
Start Date: 07/20/2024
End Date: 07/20/2024
Location: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum
1600 Wayne Street
Auburn, IN 46706
Website: http://w9ou.org
Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.015 with 141.3 tone
Public Contact: John Chalmers , W9GOO
P.O. Box 145 Auburn, IN 46706
Phone: 260-927-5746
Email: W9OU@arrl.net

Elkhart East Hamfest, ARRL Central Divison Convention
Start Date: 08/03/2024
End Date: 08/03/2024
Location: Northern Indiana Event Center
21565 Executive Parkway
Elkhart, IN 46514
Website: http://elkharteasthamfest.com
Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.330+ / 131.8
Public Contact: Dewey Thrash , K9DEW

53464 Baywater Place Bristol, IN 46507
Phone: 574-370-2436
Email: elkharthamfest@gmail.com

Hendricks County Tailgate Fest
Start Date: 08/10/2024
End Date: 08/10/2024
Location: Avon United Methodist Church
6850 E. US Hwy 36
Avon, IN 46123
Sponsor: Ham Emergency Radio Operations
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 145.130 MHz PL-Tone 88.5
Public Contact: Kenneth A Kayler , KC9SQD
3090 Clover Dr. Plainfield, IN 46168
Phone: 317-874-7068
Email: kc9sqd425@gmail.com

ARANCI Hamfest
Start Date: 08/11/2024
End Date: 08/11/2024
Location: Lake Village Community Center
9728 North 300 West
Lake Village, IN 46349
Sponsor: ARANCI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 145.330 pl 131.8
Public Contact: Michael Swiader , KA9E
PO Box 215 Lake Village, IN 46349
Phone: 815-409-5070
Email: ka9e@yahoo.com

Hoosier Hills Hamfest
Start Date: 10/12/2024
End Date: 10/12/2024
Location: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds
11265 US-50
Bedford, IN 47421
Website: https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/
Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2
Public Contact: Tim Wray , KB9SNL
PO Box 891 Bedford, IN 47421
Phone: 812-675-6733
Email: bwrs1996@gmail.com

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:
Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143
Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

© Copyright 2024 Mid-State Amateur Radio Club